Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on Tuesday 9th September 2026 at 7.30pm.

26/27.54 Members present: Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), John Clarke (JC), Helena Datta (HD), Mark Flannigan (MF), Guy Raffety (GR) and Pete Skinner (PS).

Also present: Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk)

Apologies for Absence: Stewart Hall

26/27.55 Declarations of interest: None

26/27.56 Minutes of previous meeting held on 11/08/2026.
26/27.56.1 Following a review of the minutes, it was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
26/27.56.1 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.
Millersford Restoration Project - A site visit to Millersford to look at the proposed wetland restoration works (led by Forestry England) has been arranged for 30th September. If you would like to book a place on the walk please contact the clerk at parish.clerk@woodgreen-pc.gov.uk. A public meeting will be held at a later date.
Steels Drove - The minutes made reference to abandoned cars at the bottom of Steels Drove; for clarification these vehicles are on private land and not abandoned. WPC will contact the countryside access team for their views on ensuring that Steels drive continues to be accessible.

26/27.57 Public Participation: No members of the public were present

26/27.58 Report by New Forest District Councillor. Cllr Janet Richards was unable to attend.

26/27.59 Meetings Attended:
Woodgreen Community Shop AGM: LB, GR, SH and JC attended. Changes were made to the voting process due to new national regulations. Operating the shop continues to be challenging but overhead costs were down on the previous year and a profit of £5,600 was made. The shop continues to subsidise the Post Office.
Woodgreen Village Hall AGM: JC, LB and SH attended. The hall is functioning well and there are no issues. New lights have been installed and the car park has been re-surfaced
NPA Consultative Panel 11th June: LB attended.
Hurst Spit to Lymington - A draft 100-year coastal strategy for the Hurst Spit to Lymington area sets out how communities, wildlife, heritage, recreation, tourism, and businesses can adapt to climate change and sea level rise. Implementation is estimated to cost about £412 million over 100 years.
Various discussions are in place regarding the recent A31 fire which covered 88 hectares and will take some years to regenerate due to the deep nature of the fire.

26/27.60 Recent forest fire and traffic issues:
There are many discussions at County level regarding the recent A31 fire and the resulting traffic problems. NFDC is setting up a Community Working Group which WPC has contributed to.
All residents can respond to the survey via this link. A31 Fire and Road Closure Community Impact and Recovery Survey – Fill in form.
Minstead Parish Council have collated a letter to HCC to outline the traffic difficulties which result due to sat nav directions and have asked HCC to investigate changes so these issues are alleviated.

26/27.61 New Forest National Park Local Plan Review: LB has submitted a response on behalf of WPC which includes reference to the new housing development planned at Woodfalls, the changes to the current 30% rule extension rule and the current lack of access options (e.g. cycle and bus routes).

26/27.62 Fire Safety Risk Assessment for the Reading room: The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires any building owned by the PC to have a written fire assessment. LB produced a document, this was approved and it was agreed that no actions were required at present.

26/27.63 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :
Bench - Repairs to benches on the Common are required. Materials will be approximately £50. This was unanimously agreed.
Hedges/brambles - These will be cut later in the year.
Reading Room- JC and PS repainted the soffit board at the back of the Reading Room.
Salt bin - The broken salt bin opposite the pub has been reported to HCC.
Speed Indicator Devices - WPC are still awaiting the delivery of 2 more poles from HCC. A quote will be obtained for 2 more solar fixings as short battery life is limiting. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

26/27.64 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments:

a. **Current Balances -**
- Lloyds Treasurers Account £11,069.52 as at 03.09.2026.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £82,378.86 as at 03.09.2026.

Up to date accounts were approved and balances noted.

b. **Expenditure:** The following payments were approved:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - August	360.10		Bank Transfer
British Gas	Reading Room supply August	13.22		Direct Debit
Cutting Edge	Cemetery cut- August	120.00		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.25		Direct Debit
John Clarke	Paint for Reading Room	22.00		Bank Transfer

c. To approve the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services 3.3% increase in pay rates for the clerk (applicable from 1 April 2026).
This was unanimously agreed and will be back dated from April 1st 2026.

26/27.65 Consultations and Correspondence up to 05/08/2026.
The following correspondence was noted.
Various emails and updates regarding the A31 fire and associated traffic issues.
14/08/26 NPA - Have your say on the New Forest National Park Local Plan
14/08/26 NPA - NPA welcomes Government's temporary ban on disposable BBQs.
17/08/26 New Forest Association - August Newsletter
24/08/26 NFDC - Set up of Community Recovery Working Group
26/08/26 NFDC - Residents and visitors encouraged to become Forest Guardians and help protect the New forest from litter.
28/08/26 NFDC - New forest organisations lead recovery effort following heathland fire.
Parishioner emails:
Various emails and updates regarding the A31 fire and associated traffic issues.
26/08/26 Email regarding overhanging bramble hedges. *Hedges will be cut later in the year.*
28/08/26 Email regarding temporary signage at Densome Wood. *The signs have now been removed*
31/08/26 Email regarding footpath and associated matters. *WPC will contact HCC.*

26/26.66 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

The Community Shop is looking into resolving parking issues and has asked the parish council to look at increasing the parking area at the shop. The PC will ask the shop for further information and what other measures they have considered to alleviate the parking issues.

Date of next meeting: Ordinary Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 8th October 2026 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room

The meeting ended at 20.50pm

Signed by the Chair ……..

Date ……...